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Wainford Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1946

Nobbs & Goate, Printers, Beccles and Loddon.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AS TO THE

Sanitary Conditions of Wainford Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of Wainford Rural District.

Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

STATISTICS.

Area. 44,871 acres.

Population. 6,580.

Inhabited Houses. 1,927.

Rateable Value. £15,166.

Sum raised by Penny Rate. £63.

Births.

	M.	F.	*Total.*	
Live Legitimate	53	48	110	Birth-rate per 1000, 16·7.
,, Illegitimate	5	4		(Rate for England, 19.1.)

Still Births.

Legitimate	2	0	2	Rate per 1000, ·30.
Illegitimate	0	0		(Rate for England, ·53.

Deaths.

All causes	31	33	64	Rate per 1000, 9·7. (Rate for England, 11·5).

Infant Mortality.
(under 1 year)

Legitimate	1	—	1	Rate per 1000 live births, ·9. (Rate for England, ·43.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.		M.	F.
Tuberculosis—			Heart disease	8	9
Respiratory ...	—	2	Apoplexy	4	5
Other sites ...	1	1	Other circulatory diseases	1	—
Influenza	—	1	Pneumonia	—	1
Cancer, mouth and throat	2	—	Diarrhoea	1	—
,, uterus ...	—	1	Other digestive diseases	1	—
,, stomach ...	3	—	Nephritis	—	1
,, breast ...	—	1	Suicide	1	—
,, other sites ...	5	4	Other violence ...	—	2
Diabetes	1	—	Other causes	3	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles ..	35	Whooping Cough	18
Pneumonia ..	2	Dysentery ..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Typhoid ..	1

TOTAL 58. Infectious disease incidence, 8·8 per 1000.

TUBERCULOSIS.

14 new cases were notified. Age and sex distribution:

Pulmonary, Male, 38; Females, 16, 24, 25, 32, 37, 48, 52.

Non-pulmonary, Males, 2, 5, 15, 18; Females, 12, 34.

Four deaths took place, two pulmonary, females of 25 and 52; two, non-pulmonary, male of 15 and female of 2. 21 cases remain on the register at the end of the year.

Notification of all infectious diseases is satisfactory.

NOTES.

Milk. No tuberculous sample was found out of those taken by the County Sanitary Inspector.

Diphtheria Immunisation. 71 children under five were done and 23 from five to fourteen. In future a further booster dose will be done for children aged five and upwards who have not been done since the first two doses administered during infancy. This is to reinforce the immunity which may have declined at the time of entering school and therefore the time of increased exposure to possible infection. I acknowledge great help in this from the Women's Institutes who passed on circularised information on the subject, and also from Managers of Village Halls, the use of which was of service in a district with so scattered a population. I also thank the Council for joining in the advertising campaign.

Housing. The housing programme for 1947 is 30 permanent houses. One aged man living in squalor gave rise to inspection but he died from natural causes before action could be taken.

Child Welfare. One parent was taken to Court for neglect of children and some improvement effected.

Typhoid. The one case was a visiting worker on a farm ; he was a very mild case and was immediately sent to his home. No further suspects were found and no water or milk supply implicated.

Smallpox and Typhus. Contacts were reported but no cases developed. Such cases were all warned of the position on arrival in the district. Pollution of the river from St. James' Institution was suspected on one occasion but it was proved that the river was already polluted before receiving this effluent.

Scabies. This is much less prevalent. Treatment is being satisfactorily effected with the help of the Health Visitors, the Council paying for the necessary applications.

HUBERT PEDLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

12, Fonnereau Road,
Ipswich.

ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Wainford Council Offices,
1, Ballygate, Beccles,
7th July, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wainford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I present my first Annual Report for the year 1946, dealing with the Sanitary circumstances of the district.

This record is prepared in accordance with instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 13/47, and therefore that part of the department's activities taken up with Municipal Surveyor's and Housing Manager's work is omitted.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. COLLINS,
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

STAFF.

Mr. H. Earl, the Council's Part-time Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, retired from the service of the Council in March, 1946.

The present staff consists of:

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. (Whole-time).

W. A. Collins, Cert. S.I.B., R.S.I. Meat and Other Food Certificate. (Appointed, April 1st, 1946).

Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Whole-time).

B. Morgan, Cert. S.I.B. (Appointed, April 1st, 1946).

Rodent Operative. (Part-time).

H. W. Fitt. (Appointed, June, 1946).

EXISTING HOUSING.

Number of condemned houses still occupied	91
Number of condemned houses derelict	13
Number of condemned houses demolished	Nil.

Completion of the Rural Housing Survey in July, 1946, gave the final preliminary classifications as follows:

Category	1	2	3	4	5	*Total*
No. of houses	89	213	325	109	386	1122
% of total houses inspected	8%	19%	28·9%	9·7%	34·4%	

NOTE: Category 1. Satisfactory in all respects.
,, 2. Minor defects.
,, 3. Requiring repair, etc.
,, 4. Appropriate for reconditioning.
,, 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair AT REASONABLE EXPENSE.

21 complaints were received during 1946 resulting in informal action under the Public Health Acts in respect of 27 premises.

Subsequently it was necessary to serve Statutory Notices in 6 of these cases for the abatement of nuisances, none of which were complied with at the end of the year.

HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

A contract was let in April, 1946, by this Council for 22 traditional houses in various parishes, none of which were above damp-course level at the close of the year.

The erection of 20 Swedish permanent wooden houses had to be postponed owing to the delay in acquiring a site at Holton where it was eventually necessary to apply compulsory purchase procedure. Delivery of the hulls was taken in August, 1946, into storage at Holton airfield.

One farmworker's house in Redisham parish was built; one new farmhouse started in Rumburgh parish (replacement of war damaged property); one private house in Blyford parish started and one house in Weston parish started during the year, all by private enterprise.

EMERGENCY HOUSING.

As a result of the outbreak of "squatting" on the three airfields in September, 1946, the Council proceeded to take over the requisition of several hutted sites and to carry out adaptations where necessary.

At end of the year approximately 60 families had either "squatted" or been installed by the Council. This work still continues and at the date of writing (June, 1947) over 140 families are so accommodated, either by this Council or the Beccles Municipal Council.

Sewerage, main water and electricity are available on all the Emergency Housing Sites taken over from the Air Ministry.

WATER SUPPLY.

Quality and Quantity. As boulder clay covers two-thirds of the district, the water supply remains inadequate in that part. Water sources vary from pond and surface supplies to borewells. The demand on the Council's Waterworks at St. Lawrence, All Saints and Rumburgh often exceeds the economic delivery capacity of the pumps. The bores in each case are limited in output, being originally designed for windpump operation only. The mains were designed for stand-pipe use only but subsequently farm premises and farm houses have been allowed direct connections.

Water is carted to part of St. Michaels parish throughout the year and in summer to part of All Saints Southelmham parish.

The Council maintain 26 dug wells and 8 borewells which are operated manually either by pump or bucket.

Water from deep wells in the crag strata and from borewells in the chalk strata usually contains iron in solution which renders the water objectionable for drinking and domestic purposes by reason of the heavy precipitation of "rust." No cases of pollution were detected in any of the Council's 26 dug-wells and 12 borewells nor in any private water supply.

Piped Supplies. Four separate waterworks with a total of 4½ miles of mains, are maintained by the Council, and one other waterworks is operated privately. In addition piped water is supplied to Emergency Housing Sites by the Air Ministry on two Airfields, the supply being an extension from the mains of Beccles Waterworks Company and Bungay Urban District Council respectively.

No purification is carried out at the Council's installations, the sources being in chalk strata at a deep level.

Samples submitted to the analyst in April, 1946, from waterworks at Rumburgh and All Saints were reported on as being of excellent organic and bacteriological quality but highly ferruginous and extremely hard and therefore unfit for drinking or domestic purposes in the raw state. A sample from the St. Lawrence waterworks produced a very similar analyst's report.

No plumbo-solvency has been detected in piped supplies.

The following table gives some statistics relating to piped supplies:

POPULATION AND NUMBER OF HOUSES WITH A SUPPLY OF MAIN WATER AVAILABLE.

SOURCE AND PARISH.	DIRECT SUPPLY.		STANDPIPE SUPPLY.	
	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses (Estimated)	Estimated Population
Council's Waterworks.				
All Saints	3	12	36	100
Holton	36 (including 35 Huts)	100	7	21
Rumburgh	5	15	70	210
St. Lawrence	4	12	45	135
Private Waterworks.				
Worlingham Park ...	68	204	—	—
Ellough Airfield (Sites 3 and 4)	—	—	76 Huts	228
Flixton Airfield (Hospital Site)	7 Huts	21	1 Hut	3

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new work or extensions took place during the year.

MILK PRODUCTION.

Very little routine supervision of the 350 cowsheds in the district was possible during the year. Contact is maintained with the Milk Production Officer of the War Agricultural Executive Committee. Six milk production premises were altered and improved; six new cowkeepers and one new retail purveyor was registered. One supplementary licence for retail sale of pasteurised milk was issued.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Worlingham and North Cove. The contract for weekly collections was extended during the year to include 76 hutments on the Emergency Housing Sites, Nos. 3 and 4, at Ellough Airfield.

Holton. Negotiations are in progress for a fortnightly collection from 35 hutments on the Emergency Housing Sites at Holton Airfield, but difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a suitable site for refuse disposal, both for the existing weekly service and the proposed extension.

RODENT CONTROL.

The part-time rodent operative carried out 60 poison treatments under the terms of Ministry of Food Circular N.S. 12.

Considerable overlapping occurs in this Rural District between the functions of my Council and that of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and it has not been possible to evolve an efficient method of co-ordination.

The Council continue to give their support to the "2d. per tail" scheme inaugurated by the East Suffolk County Council. The campaign is now annual and the disbursement of rewards is carried out from this office on behalf of the County Council. For the 3 months ending 31st December, 1946, 9,285 rat carcases were produced to the honorary collectors for payment.